



SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1
An equal opportunity school district

MINNEAPOLIS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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CAROL R. JOHNSON
Superintendent of Schools

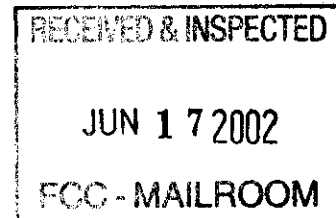
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May 1, 2002

Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445-12th Street SW
Room TW-A325
Washington, D.C. 20554



In the Matter of: Request of Minneapolis Minnesota
Special School District No. 1 of Decision of
Universal Service Administrator

FCC Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45

Dear Secretary,

This is a letter of *Request for Review* regarding the decision of the Universal Service Administrative Company ("USAC"), Schools and Libraries Division ("SLD") namely, "Request for waiver" of the deadline.

This request is being filed with the Secretary consistent with the directions for appeal from the SLD web site and with Federal Rules Section 54.710 et Seq.

On April 15, 2001 Minneapolis Public Schools received copies of three unsigned letters from USAC, SLD, titled "Administrator's Decision on Appeal – Funding Year 2001-2002". (Attached for reference-dated April 10, 2002) The letters were addressed to our E-rate consultant, Daniel Cincoski of Armstrong Torseth Skold and Rydeen Inc. ("ATS&R") and indicated that the three referenced Form 471 applications had been "Denied in full". These three letters also state that appeal may be made to the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") for further examination of our applications.

Minneapolis Public Schools has received no "Administrator's Decision on Appeal" notification regarding our fourth Form 471 (#227073). This Form 471 #225073 has been denied earlier along with the three applications mentioned above. If approval of this fourth application is also in jeopardy then please include it in the Request for Review.

This *Request for Review* of Administrator's Decision on Appeal is based on Minneapolis Public Schools first appeal letter to the FCC. (Attached for reference-dated September 7, 2001)

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We wish to reiterate the facts stated in our earlier appeal, and to emphasize that all of our applications were filed correctly within the window. Only through inadvertent misleading communication regarding deadlines with the SLD "help line" did some signature pages fail to arrive within the prescribed window, although they did meet the previous year 3 guidelines, which were apparently altered for year 4. (Please see attached letter from consultant dated July 17, 2001)

Minneapolis Public Schools is the largest school district in Minnesota. With a significantly high average E-rate discount level of 78% the figures clearly indicate a definite level of impoverishment, and a clear and desperate need for the requested funding.

Our district budgets, already strained from other funding reductions, were finalized in June of 2001. Those budgets were based on E-rate discounts received in the three previous years and our projected year 4 discounts, which were applied for in January 2001. We were unaware of any procedural difficulty affecting our applications and approved budgets, as we did not receive notification that our applications were in jeopardy until July of 2001.

It is felt that public interests would best be served by approval of this appeal. It would seem prudent that these funds should be returned to the public entities most in need, thus fulfilling the original intent of the fund.

If the funding is not forthcoming the district will be forced to cut educational programs in the next fiscal year to fund the shortfalls from this current fiscal year.

The contact person in the Minneapolis School District regarding this matter is Mr. Dan Hambrock. His telephone number is: 612 668-0284, and his e-mail address is: dan.hambrock@mpls.k12.mn.us My telephone number is: 612 668-0128 and my e-mail address is: david.jennings@mpls.k12.mn.us

Again, thank you for your careful consideration of this important matter to the students and staff of the Minneapolis Public School District.

Sincerely,



David M. Jennings
Chief Operating Officer

C: Representative Martin Sabo
Senator Paul Wellstone
Senator Mark Dayton
Commissioner Christine Jax
Dan Hambrock
Allen Giles
Paul Erickson
Dan Cincoski